

QUILTING BY THE LAKE – Session I: July 19-23, 2010

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POINT AND SHOOT FABRIC

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND SUPPLY LIST

The purpose of this class is to improve your digital photography skills and image processing skills, with an emphasis on printing fabric for quilting. You will receive digital fabric at the end of the class that you can either add to your fabric stash or use as the basis for a quilt top. The fun part of this class is taking pictures, and getting over the frustration of computers so you will know how to create the fabulous fabric you want for your quilts.

You will need intermediate computer skills for this class, but you do not need experience with photo or graphics software. What you need to know is how to use your computer. You need to know where your files are stored and how to access them and how to transfer files from one directory to another. You need to know how to make new directories and folders. You also need to know how to copy your files to a flash drive.

With your digital camera, you need to know the basics of how it works and how to download files from the camera to your computer. If you have basic picture taking skills you will work on improving them in class and the photo walkabout.

You will need to bring either a laptop or desktop computer to the class. If you are flying, we understand how much trouble it is to fly with a laptop computer, digital camera and sewing machine. The good news is that you do not need a sewing machine.

ENTRY SURVEY – YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS SURVEY. Please go online to our website www.thedigitalquilt.com and fill out the Entry Survey for Point and Shoot Fabric. We tailor each class to the skill level and needs of the students and your answers from the survey allow us to make the class the best it can be for you.

Please keep in mind that digital technology is changing rapidly and the cycle is about 18 months. This means that the information we give you about digital cameras, computers and software may change from the time we write this and the time the class is held. You can get the latest information on our website www.thedigitalquilt.com.

The following is based on working with our students in previous classes. The most challenging thing we have seen our students encountering in class is the speed of their computer. The students with older, slower computers are frustrated because they are waiting for the computers to process the steps as they follow us in the class exercises.

HARDWARE – we want to keep the computer part as simple as possible. Keep in mind that laptop computers are like calculators and other electronic devices. They get better and cheaper with time. Most of the warehouse and/or discount stores have

laptops starting at \$800 and up, that will work very well with the basic Adobe Photoshop Elements software.

Our best suggestion is to bring the most powerful computer you have. If you are driving to the conference it is okay to bring a desktop computer and monitor.

You will need a power strip with a SURGE PROTECTOR. We can not guarantee the quality of the electricity on site. A surge protector is CHEAP INSURANCE for your computer and many of you already have them for your sewing machines.

If you are a MAC User, you know more about their computers than we do, so bring the fastest MAC you have with you. Keep in mind that as of this writing, Adobe Photoshop Elements for the MAC usually runs about one release behind the PC version. What we have seen is that the even number releases are available for both PC and MAC but the odd number releases are usually only available for the PC.

So far, there has not been a lot of difference between the even number release and the next higher odd number release. Check our website www.thedigitalquilt.com for the latest releases that we are recommending for the class.

Since Adobe Photoshop is a cross platform program, we have not had any problems with having both PC and MAC computer users in our class.

We get a lot of hardware questions and we encourage you to ask questions before the class. E-mail us your computer, software and camera questions at class@thedigitalquilt.com.

You can learn a lot in the class, and we suggest that you make the learning process as easy as possible for yourself. **DO NOT LET YOUR EQUIPMENT MAKE THE LEARNING PROCESS HARDER FOR YOU.** Bring the most powerful computer you have to the class.

SOFTWARE – in this class we will use the latest version Adobe Photoshop Elements for demonstrations. If you want to use some other software besides Photoshop Elements, this class is not for you.

You will need to have the latest version of Adobe Photoshop Elements loaded on your computer. My demonstrations will be with a PC running Windows Vista and Photoshop Elements. If you wish to use an older version of Windows and Photoshop Elements you may do so, but keep in mind the screens I project will look different. The program costs \$79 from the warehouse stores like Costco or it can be bought from Amazon.com. We have seen specials pricing it as low as \$49. We recommend that you upgrade to the latest version of Photoshop Elements even if you are still running on Windows XP.

If you have no experience whatsoever with Adobe Photoshop, DO NOT WORRY. This class is about giving you a simple and easy system to process your pictures for printing

on fabric. Photoshop Elements is the easiest and best way to do it at this time. We will show you a fast and easy way to do it in Photoshop Elements.

Between the time this is written and the class in 2010 there may be new versions of both Windows and Adobe Photoshop Elements. I always use the latest version and will give you information about the upgrades on our website www.thedigitalquilt.com.

CAMERAS - Cameras are VERY personal -- what one person likes, another does not. I will show you how to take the best pictures with the camera you have. This is a beginning level class for quilters with “point and shoot” digital cameras. These cameras keep getting better and cheaper. If you have an older “point and shoot” digital camera, for the best results you should upgrade to a camera with at least 6 Mega Pixel resolution. After 45 years in photography, I have a lot of information about cameras. If you ask, I am glad to share my opinions on cameras.

WHAT YOU NEED for the “POINT AND SHOOT FABRIC” class.

1. A laptop or desktop computer with Adobe Photoshop Elements loaded on it. We recommend that you have 4 GB of RAM especially if your operating system is Windows Vista.
2. A “point and shoot” digital camera with at least 6 Mega Pixels (MP). Currently there are a variety of “point and shoot” digital cameras in the 8-10 MP range that are selling in the \$200 price range. My “point and shoot” digital camera was approximately \$450 and its big advantage is that it allows me to shoot RAW files as well as JPEGs.
3. The camera manual for your camera. If you can not find it, go online and download a version of it.
4. The battery charger for the camera and an extra battery. It is no fun if your camera battery runs down in the middle of the class and you can't take pictures.
5. 2 Blank storage media cards for your camera.
6. A card reader to download your photos to your computer, or the cable that came with the camera to download from the camera to the computer. Note: downloading the storage card through a card reader is faster than downloading pictures from the camera.
7. A flash drive or thumb drive that plugs into USB2 port on your computer: it needs to be at least 1 GB in size. When you are ready to print, you will hand us your files on your flash drive. We will return your flash drive and fabric to you after it is printed.
8. Power Supply for your laptop computer, surge protector and extension cord.
9. If you are used to using a mouse with your desktop computer, bring one for your laptop. We have had students frustrated trying to make the touchpad work on their borrowed laptops. But the minute we plugged in a mouse, the problem was solved and it changed their whole experience in the class.
10. We recommend that you bring your original Photoshop Elements installation disk with you in case you have a problem and need to re-install the program.

WHAT YOU DO NOT NEED

You do not need a sewing machine. You do not need a printer or laminated fabric for printing on for our class. Your lab fee includes the printing out of fabric for you on our Epson printer with archival Ultrachrome inks. It also includes the laminated fabric that we will use to print your files. (The term laminated fabric refers to the cotton fabric that is laminated to paper so it runs easily through printers like the Epson Ultrachrome printers.) The fabrics that we use from are treated with an ink jet receptor coating to get the best prints on the fabric. You will get three pieces of fabric 17-inches wide by 11-inches high to use in the construction of your quilt top. Time permitting, we will be glad to print more fabric for you for a small fee.

If you are an advanced student and have printed fabric before on either a printer with Epson Ultrachrome inks or other printers, please, feel free to bring that fabric to the class. Be sure to bring notes that tell us what fabric you used and what printer you used to print it. We will be glad to discuss any issues you may have had with printing fabric.

If you want to ask more specific equipment questions, feel free to e-mail us at class@thedigitalquilt.com.

Lab Fee: \$60 (includes the fabric teacher will print for you in class)